(c) In the accidents on Western Railway, 37 persons lost their lives and the loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 29.39 lakhs approximately.

(d) No compensation has been paid to the victims and next of kins of the deceased, involved in the above accidents so far. The same will be paid immediately on being awarded by *aclhoc/ex-officio* Claims Commissioner

(e) All these accidents were inquired into either by the Departmental Inquiry Committees or by the Commissioners of Railway Safety functioning under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(f) Railway staff of the categories of Drivers, Permanent Way Inspectors, Gangmate/Mate, Train Examiners, Workshop staff, Cabinmen, Gatemen and Guard were held responsible for majority of these accidents on Western Railway. Road users were responsible for 11 per cent of these accidents.

(g) Some of the preventive measures taken to avoid the recurrence of train accidents and to increase efficiency are as under:

(i) Intensification of field inspections and counselling of staff.

(ii) Identification of accident-prone areas by High level Safety Teams and remedial measures thereon

(iii) Induction of modern technological aids like ultrasonic testing of rails and rolling stock axles provision of track circuiting, axle counters, auxiliary warning system, etc,

(iv) Programmed rehabilitation of assets.

(v) Improvement in quality of staff training.

Demand for Extension of Long Distant Train in Saurashtra Region

937. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some demands from VIPs, MPs. various organisations have been received during lst January, 1987 to llth February, 1988 to extend long distant trains like Navjivan Express and Sarvodaya Express uPto Saurashtra region;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof of such demands;

(c) what action has been taken thereon and the outcome thereof;

(d) what are the trains presently running upto Saurashtra region of Gujarat; and

(e) what are the reasons for not providing such trains so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) and (e) Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been received for extension of long distance trains like Navjivan Express, Sarvodaya Express, Ahmedabad-Howrah Express to Rajkot/Hapa in Saurashtra. These suggestions have not been found viable due to inadequate through traffic. Besides, through reservation facilities are available for Howrah, Madras, Hyderabad, Delhi etc.

(d) Following long distance trains are available for the Saurashtra region in Gujarat:—

(1) 5/6 Bombay-Okha Saurashtra Mail.

(2) 15/16 Bombay-Porbandar Saurashtra Express.

(3) 17/18 Bombay-Hapa Saurashtra Janata Express.

(4) 31/32 Bombay-Gandhidham Express.

Port Blaiir Harbour

938. DR G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will ' the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state what action Government propose to take to improve natural harbour of Port Blair which is of national importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): The Govern-